

# Update from the German Commission on Growth, Structural Change and Employment

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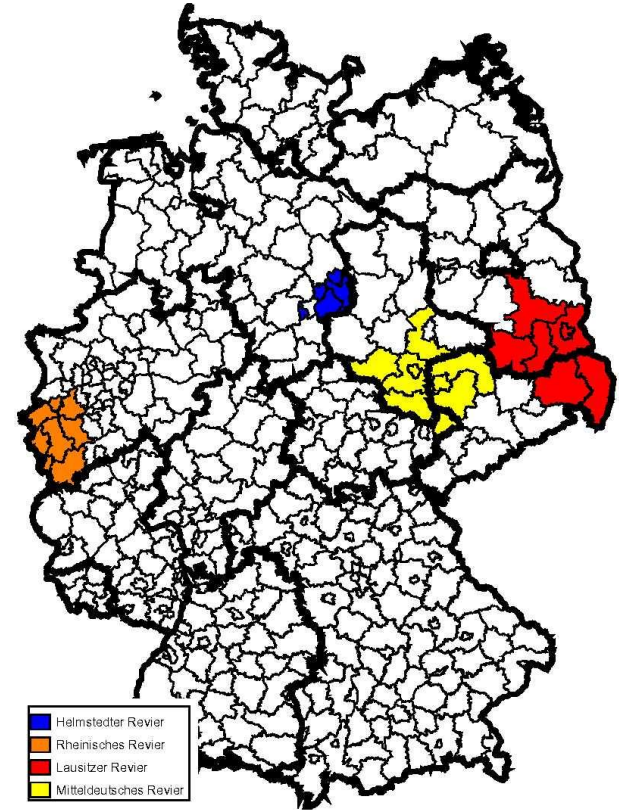
German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy

# Background

- Commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement by the German Government
- Climate Action Plan of the German Government (2016)
- Implementation of the Climate Action Plan will accelerate the structural change, especially in regions producing coal-based power
- At the same time meeting objectives of secure energy supply, economic feasibility and environmental protection

# Background

- Affected regions should not be strained unilaterally.
- Therefore, the regions themselves, the Länder, the Federal Government and EU have to take responsibility for avoiding structural interruptions and disadvantages and creating opportunities for a sustainable economic development.



# Institutional Measures

- Commission on „Growth, Structural Change and Employment“ appointed in June 2018.
- 4 Chairpersons, 28 members from various groups of society.
- Dual focus of mandate:
  - develop recommendations for structural transition in lignite regions
  - develop recommendations for a reduction of coal-based power generation until a determination date.
- Completion of work by end of December 2018.

# Current state of the Commission's work

- Commission has visited lignite regions (Mitteldeutsches Revier, Lausitzer Revier and Rheinisches Revier) in September 2018.
- 25th of October: 7th meeting of the Commission (11 scheduled in total).
- End of October: Commission has published its interim report on structural policy including first concrete measures.
- December 2018: Energy and climate policy recommendations will be published (before 24th UN-Climate Conference).
- End of December: final report will be issued.

# Interim Report's Recommendations

- Report provides very detailed analysis of the initial situation of the lignite regions as well as of the starting points for structural policy measures.
- Defines criteria and goals for structural policy measures.
- Describes various measures and recommends very concrete policies in the areas of infrastructure as well as research institutes.
- Suggests no concrete recommendation on funding of measures.
- Recommends that lignite regions should go beyond termination date of coal energy production.
- Proposes that monitoring and evaluation of measures should be developed.

# Conclusion / Open Questions

- Germany has many programs in place to support structural change, e.g. the established Regional Joint Task (GRW) or the new support program “Unternehmen Revier”.
- Should further measures be taken by EU (besides existing EU-structural funds)?
  - Could an additional EU-funding for measures in cross-border lignite regions (e.g. Lausitz as part of the Euroregion Neiße) complement existing instruments?
  - Could an adaption of state-aid rules support structural changes in the affected regions?